



An investment in Latino youth
Invirtiendo en nuestra juventud

An investment in Latin America
Invirtiendo en nuestra juventud

ASPIRA

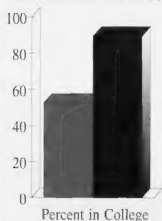
****What is ASPIRA®?***

The ASPIRA Association, Inc. is the only national nonprofit organization devoted solely to serving Puerto Rican and other Latino youth through leadership development and education. ASPIRA takes its name from the Spanish verb *aspirar*, "to aspire to something greater."

Since 1961 ASPIRA has pursued its mission of empowering the Latino community through the development of its youth. All of ASPIRA's goals and activities spring from one basic belief: Puerto Ricans and Latinos have the collective potential to move their community forward.

ASPIRA looks at Latino youth and sees the potential there; the leaders waiting to emerge. With community-based offices in large cities of six states and Puerto Rico, ASPIRA's 300 staff members work with over 17,000 youth and their families each year to develop that potential. These are our *Aspirantes*--those youth who will become educated, committed leaders for the community's future benefit. Since its founding, ASPIRA has provided a quarter of a million youth with the personal resources they need to remain in school and contribute to their community. Most mainland Puerto Rican leaders today were encouraged by ASPIRA during their adolescence.

Aspirantes Continue Education



- Other Hispanics
- Aspirantes

**The ASPIRA Process*

Over the years, ASPIRA has developed a highly successful intervention model called the ASPIRA Process. The model consciously accentuates the positive, putting the stress on developing the potential of *Aspirantes* rather than on trying to overcome their perceived deficits.

"Then I got introduced to ASPIRA . . . a group of educated individuals with a strong Puerto Rican identity who could still deal with the white world and not be ashamed of who they are. For the first time, this provided the missing link, and it made a lot of sense."

Jaime Santana, Esq.
Aspirante & Chairperson,
ASPIRA National Board
of Directors

The ASPIRA Process of leadership development teaches youth to become **aware** of their current situation, to **analyze** its consequences, and to take **action** for change in their personal lives and the life of their community. ASPIRA brings together students, parents, school and community members to promote educational success and community service. ASPIRA also works with foundations, corporations, and the government to improve educational opportunities for these young Latinos.

**The ASPIRA Association*

ASPIRA currently has offices in the Latino communities of major cities in Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Puerto Rico. Each local office operates many programs that grow out of the specific conditions of the local site but have in common the ASPIRA Process model and ASPIRA's commitment to leadership development and education.

These local offices, with ASPIRA's broader network of 5,000 community-based organizations, school districts, local and national policy makers, and corporate representatives, receive information and assistance from ASPIRA's Washington, DC-based National Office.

****The ASPIRA National Office***

The National Office supports the local offices in their one-on-one work with students. It promotes quality programs, raises the visibility of the Association, conducts research and disseminates analyses, and acts as a liaison to the federal government and professional organizations.

In addition, the National Office coordinates national programs that fit into three broad work areas: Youth Leadership and Community Service, Educational Access and Careers, and Community Mobilization for Educational Excellence.

Youth Leadership and Community Service

The ASPIRA Public Policy Leadership Program provides 90 students each year with the opportunity to study public policy and work with local leaders in community service internships. Selected students also spend the summer in Washington, DC as interns with national policy makers.

The ASPIRA/Americorps Community Service Program supports 40 volunteers in three cities who spend a year tutoring and mentoring middle and high school students, and working to bring families together in after-school activities. Volunteers receive a stipend and college funds for their service.

The ASPIRA Alumni Association is creating an active network of alumni who will work collaboratively with current students and staff to expand and enrich community-based self-help activities.

Educational Access and Careers

The ASPIRA National Health Careers Program has for 25 years provided 1,000 high school and college students per year with the experience, motivation, and academic support to become sorely-needed health professionals.

The ASPIRA Mathematics/Science Initiative improves the math and science skills of Latino middle school students with hands-on activities, mentors, and field trips as well as academic assistance. The initiative operates both as an after-school enrichment program and as part of an alternative school curriculum.

"There was an energy in the ASPIRA office, and a sense of power that I needed in order to keep on. It was the sense that this office was for us, and we weren't alone."

Jimmy Smits
Aspirante, Emmy-award winning actor

Community Mobilization for Educational Excellence

The Teachers, Organizations, and Parents for Students (TOPS) Partnership Project brings together teachers and parents as a team to help individual students achieve their personal and academic goals. Teams integrate parent involvement activities with child-centered counseling and mentoring.

The ASPIRA Parents for Educational Excellence (APEX) Initiative trains parents to become informed advocates, working together to improve education in their communities. Trained parents then mobilize others to join their efforts, spreading the project's impact to approximately 400 parents in three years.

The **Mobilization for Equity** provides information to community members around the country on public policy issues related to the equity of educational services. It helps the Latino community understand students' rights and promotes effective advocacy strategies for change.

"The most important lesson I learned at ASPIRA was perseverance. . . although at times it may become a struggle, stick with your goals and share with your community."

Jaime Martínez, M.D.
Aspirante
Cook County Children's
Hospital

****ASPIRA Research and Advocacy***

ASPIRA works to increase the access of Latino students to quality educational opportunities. The Association has been at the forefront of the effort to focus attention on the often dismal educational conditions of Latino students and to provide positive solutions. It is recognized as a major force in Latino youth advocacy, while its collaborative work with other national organizations includes chairing the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda.

The ASPIRA Institute for Policy Research conducts policy analysis on issues affecting the Puerto Rican and greater Latino community and distributes the results to the community through widely-distributed reports, pilot projects, electronic networks, and collaborations with other organizations.

Legislative advocacy is carried out according to regulations governing 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations and is always nonpartisan.

**ASPIRA Communications*

ASPIRA's quarterly newsletter, *ASPIRA News*, provides local and national leaders with information on ASPIRA's programs, interviews, and commentary on current education issues. ASPIRA's opinions are widely reported in major newspapers, and staff frequently are invited to speak at national conferences, meetings, and on radio and television programs. ASPIRA's training manuals, booklets, reports, and fact sheets receive extensive coverage and are distributed throughout the country. Further information on ASPIRA's publications can be found in the brochure, *What's Available from ASPIRA*.

**ASPIRA Looks to the Future*

As we fast approach the 21st century, the education issues that ASPIRA has effectively dealt with for so long are becoming ever more critical. ASPIRA's growth has been impressive since its beginning as a parent-initiated community organization in 1961, but there is always more to do. The next several years will see ASPIRA enhancing and extending its program assistance to better serve the rapidly-growing Latino community.

"I'm a very big supporter of ASPIRA. It's great for young people to get a sense of positive identity. Just the name alone, ASPIRA, means to aspire. I think that's an inspiration."

Aida Alvarez, Aspirante
Director of Federal
Housing Enterprise
Oversight, U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development

As required by law, the following information is disclosed regarding federally-funded programs managed by the ASPIRA National Office mentioned in this brochure: ASPIRA/AmeriCorps: funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service, grant #94ADNDC043, \$663,513 federal funds (80%), \$170,984 non-federal (20%); ASPIRA National Health Careers Program: 97% funded by the Health Careers Opportunity Program, US Public Health Service, grant #1-D18-MB02170-03, 3% funded by Bristol-Myers Squibb for a total of \$282,078; ASPIRA TOPS Partnership Project: funded by School Dropout Demonstration Assistance Program, US Dept. of Education, grant #701D13019-95, \$44,672 federal funds (78%), \$12,500 non-federal (22%); ASPIRA Math and Science Project (MAS) National Science Foundation grant #9353813, (100%) \$6,650 for 1993-95 program period.

ASPIRA Association

National Office

1444 I Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005
202-835-3600/Fax: 202-835-3615
aspiral@aol.com

State Offices

ASPIRA of Connecticut, Inc.
1600 State Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605
203-336-5762

ASPIRA of Florida, Inc.
3650 N. Miami Avenue
Miami, FL 33137
305-576-1512

ASPIRA, Inc., of Illinois
2435 N. Western Avenue
Chicago, IL 60647
312-252-0970

ASPIRA, Inc., of New Jersey
390 Broad Street
3rd Floor
Newark, NJ 07104
201-484-7554

ASPIRA of New York, Inc.
470 Seventh Avenue
3rd Floor
New York, NY 10018
212-564-6880

ASPIRA, Inc., of Pennsylvania
2726 N. 6th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19133
215-229-1226

ASPIRA, Inc. de Puerto Rico
Apartado 29132
Estación 65 de Infantería
Río Piedras, PR 00929
787-768-1985